



# The Falling Waters Messenger

Issue Nine

September 2017

Volume XXXIII

## News from Houston

Houston is where I was born, where I went to college, where I met Robert, where we were married, where I felt the call to ministry, and where I was ordained as a minister. Those are the big life moments, but as I see pictures of submerged landmarks and read stories of heroism, I think about the countless ordinary memories that made up a pretty great life there: Humid Friday afternoons at picnic tables on the patio of the Gingerman pub, shaded by live oak trees. Heaping bowls of food at Lai Lai's Dumpling House, with bags of leftovers at the end. The carefree joy of hopping in the car and, 45 minutes later, being on the sandy shores of the Gulf.

I'm heartened, but not surprised, to read stories of Houstonians coming together as a community. As heartbreaking as the devastation is—multiple dear friends of mine had to flee their homes clutching a backpack of possessions—there's also something comforting in these stories of neighborliness. Our culture seems so rife with rage and rancor these days; I wonder sometimes whether we can ever be whole again. (Were we ever?) Yet as singer-songwriter Carrie Newcomer likes to say, "The things that have always saved us are still here to save us."

One of the things that saves us, again and again, is ordinary people stepping up and doing hard things. I read a story of a pastor who was stopping at every submerged car he encountered to make sure nobody was trapped inside. Recognizing the parable of the lost sheep when I see it, I shared it with the comment, "Friends, meet Jesus."

We crave such stories. But here's the thing. We're in the story too. Sometimes we're the ones needing rescue. Other times we're the ones offering a

hand. One thing we cannot afford to be is on the sidelines. Not now, not really ever.

Many Houston friends have been sharing the photo of the beloved graffiti above I-45: "Be Someone". I don't know whether the message is visible in the wake of Harvey, or if it is hiding under slowly receding waters. But it's a good reminder.

There will be no super hero rescue. Yes, it's valid to expect our leaders to be more courageous, to uphold the values we hold dear. At the same time... we're it. We, the cranky and the capable; the MAGAs and the bleeding heart liberals, the fearful and the hopeful.

How will you be someone today? May I suggest one small action? My dollars are going to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, an organization with good transparency and a record of effectiveness. It offers resources that are practical, non-sectarian, and inclusive to all—and their work persists for years as they help communities recover and rebuild over the long haul. If not PDA, give what you can to the relief organization of your choice. Houston proud.

Mary Ann McKibben Dana

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:  
DR000169-Harvey

You can also give with a credit card by visiting:  
[presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-HARVEY](http://presbyterianmission.org/GIVE-HARVEY)  
or phone at 800-872-3283

## September Birthdays

3	Larry Brown	13	John Brown
3	Skip Lantz	17	Alex Fleagle
4	Phil Noll	19	Mary Hodges
4	Reggie Miller	21	Lucas Shipper
5	Jack Fleagle	22	Renee Campbell
12	Tom Tucker	23	Pam Flanagan
13	Kelsey Blaine		



Nursery Attendants

Sept. 3	Lyn Hansen, Audrey MacDonald
Sept. 10	Tina and Ellie Sloan
Sept. 17	Tammy and Nat Hylton
Sept. 24	Beth and Tiffany Henry

## Movie Night



Join us on September 16 at 5:00 p.m. for dinner at Kings Pizza in Falling Waters followed at 7:00 by "Songcatcher" starring Janet McTeer and Aidan Quinn. During a visit to her sister in Appalachia, a gifted musicologist stumbles upon a treasure trove of dozens of Scots-Irish ballads.

## Greeters for September

John MacDonald- Head Elder

Sept. 3	John MacDonald, Maxine Taylor, Carolyn Linton
Sept. 10	John, Brenda Carper, Susie Cushwa
Sept. 17	John, Brenda and Robert Cloud
Sept. 24	John, Heather and Archie Locke

## Flock Notes

The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District has awarded **Robert Cloud** 2017 Berkeley County Conservation Farm of the Year. Congratulations, Robert!

## Pray Without Ceasing

Pat Baumbaugh  
 Bill and Billy Berg  
 Jimmy Cloud  
 Kenny Cushwa  
 Ron Hansen  
 Mary Hodges  
 Irvin Horst  
 Ted Largent  
 John McKune  
 Margie McKune  
 Pete and Scott Mekkelson  
 Virginia Snyder  
 Maxine Taylor  
 Bill Zombro



A new **Coffee Hour sign-up sheet** for the fall quarter is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. If you haven't hosted a coffee hour in awhile, please consider it for the fall. You may also call Kathy Goodell at 754-3607.

## Community Outreach

This year, FWPC will be volunteering at Spring Mills Middle School. Jessica Ruqus will be guiding us to opportunities to support the school through our participation in various events. This will give us an excellent opportunity to serve our community and to build relationships with the community.

In order to volunteer in any school in Berkeley County, any non-school employee must have a background check. It's a very simple process. Go to [www.berkeleycountyschools.org](http://www.berkeleycountyschools.org). On the left side of the page toward the bottom you'll see "For Community." Under this heading is "Secure Volunteer." Click on that and you will be guided through the process.

The cost for the background check is \$19.95 and it is good for two years. If you wish to be reimbursed for this charge, please let Kate Lewis Brown know and we'll be happy to do so.

### Ways WE Can Support SMMS (1st Nine Weeks)

1. Participate in school fundraising efforts such as Cherrydale Farms/Yankee Candle (**now through September 11th**). See a participating student of SMMS for a brochure.

2. Donate new or gently used school supplies for SMMS's *Free-bay* table.

Please see the collection box in Fellowship Hall. (*Pencils and paper are of the greatest need!*)

3. Join SMMS's **Local School Improvement Council (LSIC)**- Meets quarterly after school (2:45~3:30) to discuss the efforts of the school and how the community can support these efforts. First meeting is **October 17th**.

4. Volunteer to supervise students during a school dance! o **Back to School Dance- Thurs, Oct 19th-** SMMS Gymnasium, 2:35-5:00 p.m.

5. Join SMMS's **Family School and Community Club (FSC)**- The school's parent-teacher organization will be hosting a Movie Night in **October**. Volunteer to supervise students during events and/or run a station such as concessions. (Contact Sherry Headley [shheadley@k12.wv.us](mailto:shheadley@k12.wv.us) or Elizabeth Apolinar [eapolinar@k12.wv.us](mailto:eapolinar@k12.wv.us) for more information.)

*\*If you have any questions or concerns about events at SMMS, feel free to contact Jessica Ruqus [jruqus@k12.wv.us](mailto:jruqus@k12.wv.us) at any time.*

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*

## Just a Reminder

The Maintenance Committee reminds all who use the Fellowship Hall to turn off the coffee maker, pour out left over coffee and take trash to dumpster following an activity.

## NCC In Concert

The **National Christian Choir 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition** will be singing in Martinsburg at Otterbein United Methodist Church on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Jeanie Cushwa has tickets for the NCC Christmas concert which will be held at the International Christian church in Frederick MD, on December 2, 2017, at 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. You can contact Jeanie at 304-267-8189 or email at [jeaniecushwa@gmail.com](mailto:jeaniecushwa@gmail.com). Or you can go to the NCC website at [nationalchristianchoir.org](http://nationalchristianchoir.org) or call the office at 301-670-6331 or 800-599-4710. Some of our own children will be singing in the NCC Christmas Children's Choir.



Adult choir practice begins again on September 6. If you would like to join the fun and make a joyful noise, please see Radonna Mullenax for more information.

# The BIG EVENT

## September 16, 2017

### 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Massanetta Springs, Harrisonburg, VA

A COMING TOGETHER OF ALL  
SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY  
CONGREGATIONS

**The Big Event** offers worship, music, a mission fair, and workshops to interest adults, youth and children as we celebrate our oneness in Christ. To discover what workshops are offered this year view:

[The Big Event 2017 brochure and registration form.](#)

Your congregation, organization or mission community is invited to set up a display and be part of the fair so that we may all join together in celebrating what God is doing here and around the world in mission work. Come and share mission trips, partnerships, local mission projects, and other creative ways that show how you are living out God's call!

The Big Event is co-sponsored by Shenandoah Presbytery Committees on Educational Resources, Mission and Outreach, and the Presbyterian Women.

## Concert 2017-2018 Season

**Blue and Gray Chorus** – September 10, 2017, 3:00 p.m. (male barbershop harmony)

**Elisabeth von Trapp** – October 27, 2017, 7:00 p.m. (granddaughter of the von Trapps of *Sound of Music* fame)

**D'Amore Duo** – November 19, 2017, 3:00 p.m. (Guitar/Oboe)

**The Blackthorn Trio** – March 11, 2018, 3:00 p.m. (Irish Music)

**The Berkeley Community Chorus** – May 20, 2018, 3:00 p.m. (variety of choral music)

## Concert Subscriptions

We offer season subscriptions to Concerts in the Community. There are two types of subscriptions for the 2017-2018 season. (1) Subscriptions for 4 concerts of your choice cost \$25.00; (2) Subscriptions for all 5 concerts are \$30.00 per person. Subscriptions will entitle each person to a seat in the reserved center seating and one free student ticket. If you are interested in being a subscriber, please let me know.

Kate Lewis Brown

## New Sermon Series Begins!

Over the summer, I prayerfully considered the worship calendar for what's known traditionally as the church's program year (September - May). After many hours of study, prayer, and conversation, a plan emerged. Beginning in September, I'll begin a sermon series on Christian Mission. We'll explore the Bible together and trust the Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts and hands so that we might more faithfully respond to God's call to serve others. Join us in the sanctuary each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.!

## Let's Welcome a Special Guest!

Falling Waters Presbyterian Church is excited to announce that Doug Sensabaugh, Chair of the Mission and Outreach Committee of Shenandoah Presbytery, will be joining us for Sunday School and Worship on Sunday, September 10, 2017. Doug will be leading our youth and adults in a presentation and discussion of local, national, and international mission work.

Following Sunday School, Doug will be our guest preacher during worship. Please mark your calendars as you won't want to miss this opportunity to hear about how we as individuals and as a congregation might fulfill Jesus' command to love God and our neighbors near and far.

# Looking Back with Bette Jane Porterfield and Ron Hansen

FWPC Community House

The community house was located across from the church on corner of Harlan Spring Rd and 901. The property was purchased by the church, Dec. 22, 1922, from heirs of the Duvall family. Funds were raised by the "Christian Endeavor Society" chaired by Boyd H. Leyburn amounting to \$1,088 to help begin construction for the Community House. Womens Clubs in the area also raised money for the effort. They would use the building for dinners, special programs, and meetings. The building was square in shape and built of terra cotta block. Inside was a 3' high stage on the west end, with a red velvet curtain and dressing rooms on either side. There were no bathrooms, or running water. Early articles from 1930's "The Church Messenger" report the building was quite useful and created a strong bond of union for the community. Improvements to the building were made over the years, including painting wood work, refinishing walls, purchase of new curtain for stage and chairs. Improvements were always by generous volunteers and donations.

In 1934 the "Societies of Falling Waters" gave a special reception to our returned missionaries from the Congo, Dr Armistad and Jean McMurray. It was well attended.

In the 1940's 50's and 60's the community house continued to be used for church Sunday School and plays. Many of our members have fond memories as children trekking across the cemetery over to the community house, bundling up in winter. The Christmas singing and Christmas plays are special memories.

The location's lack of utilities eventually led to conversation of building a Fellowship Hall onto the Church. This became a reality in 1968-69. In the early 1970's the old community house was demolished, The church still owns the property - approx. 1 acre.

More in depth information along with old photos is available in our church History files.